

THE MARKET HOUSE

Newent Town Council's newsletter - May/June 2021



Mayor's Message

Hello everyone, it is good to see Newent coming back to life after our long periods of lockdown. The hospitality venues are at last able to open and work their way back to some sense of normality. We wish them well.

Unfortunately, the weather in May was not great for outdoor eating and drinking, being the wettest on record. Now we are in June, we are at last receiving some sunshine thank goodness. It is encouraging to know that the eateries are doing well.

At last, the Council is back to face-to-face Council meetings, but due to the restrictions still in place regarding Covid 19, we are holding our meetings at the Community School. This will provide us with ample room to socially distance, and just as importantly provide more room and space for visitors. The meetings take place every second and fourth Monday of the month and commence at 7pm. The public is always welcome.

New planting at lake

Having signed up to the tree charter; we applied for, and were awarded a grant of £600.00 from STWA for the purchase of trees. This has enabled tree planting to take place in the lake area, next to Court Road. Members of the public have assisted with this and during different days councillors and residents picked up their spades and planted trees.

We thank Neil Evans and Leaf Creative for their support. They have been very generous. We also thank Castle Fruit farm, and the Girl Guide Rangers who assisted with planting.

We had also already planted a peace tree in this area, supporting the Royal British legion. The legion supplied a plaque which recognizes those who lost their lives. A fitting tribute to VE and VJ days.

Community and Police Liaison Group

The Community and Police Liaison Group is underway, and membership is growing. This group was set up in answer to resident's complaints regarding policing and thefts in the area.

After a public meeting at the Community School, it was agreed to organise meetings for the public to raise their concerns with the Police.

This is a community lead initiative, and should you wish to join the group you would be very welcome. Please contact the office on 01531820638 in the first instance.

Public Buildings review and back to physical Council meetings

One of the most important matters the Council's Working Group is concentrating on is the best use of our public buildings: The Lodge and the Cemetery Chapel on Watery Lane, along with the repairs to the iconic Market House, and to source future suitable venues for council meetings, with adequate provision, including social distancing, for councillors and members of the public. As always, financial problems raise their familiar head.

Deed of Variation applications required

Newent Town Council is seeking applications from community groups that are carrying out projects related to youth and adult recreation.

For more information contact the Town Clerk on townclerk@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk

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.Newent Town Council Youth Action Group Information Board

The Newent Town Council Youth Action Group has had its first project approved by Full Council: to have an information board in the phone box in Vauxhall/Tythings alongside the mini library already kindly created by a resident.

Gloucestershire County Council - Newent Multi-Agency Flood Forum

Following the recent flooding incident in Newent, Newent Town Council has asked Gloucestershire County Council in its capacity as the Local Lead Flood Authority to set up a multi-agency forum to examine the circumstances of the flood of 23rd December, to look at a range of prevention measures for the future, and to make recommendations to the Local Lead Flood Authority (GCC) and the Local Flood Authority (FODDC).

Traffic Regulation Order

The consultation results for the proposed Traffic Regulation Orders to make our Town safer, in response to residents' concerns, are currently being analysed and are with the Highways manager. A report will be coming to Full Council shortly.

Buying alternative Flood prevention resources

As a result of the flooding issues in Newent and in the wider district, the Forest of Dean District Council has asked Town and Parish Councils if they want to buy Hydro Snakes or Flood Sax (an environmentally friendly alternative to sandbags) in the event of another flood. Full Council resolved to purchase 100 Flood Sax (being reusable) to ensure they are prepared to be able to help protect residents and business properties.

Welcome Back Fund

There is an opportunity to gain funding that will help Newent. A £56m fund for safe and successful re-opening of the High Street in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Suggestions put forward were the renewal of the seat in St Mary's Churchyard, additional bunting, publicity for businesses in the town who have free wi-fi, and promotional leaflets for the town.

Newent Town Council has decided to expand fishing rights at Newent Lake.

Due to residents' demand, Newent Town Council has amended the fishing rules for a limited number of people who live outside the parish to fish at Newent Lake. There will be 20 permits available on a first come first serve basis. This initiative will encourage the new fishermen and their families to come and enjoy our Town and its amenities.

Newent Town Council supports the Frontline Workers Day

Newent Town Council is to support the NHS Frontline Workers Day on the 5th July. And will be flying the key workers flag and holding a 2 minutes' silence at 11am before taking part in the toast at 1pm.

Newent Dr's Practice, Holts Health Centre

Our Councillor volunteer at the Health Centre has high praise indeed, for all at the practice. And the Council would like to extend our thanks to all at Newent Surgery, especially to the nurses and admin staff who have been working extra hours, for many months, to accommodate the work involved with the vaccinations.

This situation is likely to continue for the foreseeable future, but the normal work still has to carry on. Thank you to you all.

Welcome to Newent

When the new development of houses has been completed behind Foley Gardens, there will approximately 600 -700 cars a day leaving via the junction of Onslow Road and the Gloucester Road by the filling station. The majority of these cars will turn right and leave town. The Town Council has erected a sign at this junction to advise people that, by turning

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left, you will find the Town Centre and shops. New residents may be unaware or what they are missing, so as it says on the advert - GO LEFT!'



Contact us: All members can be contacted by using their details on the website or via the Clerk on the following email address: townclerk@newenttowncouncil.gov.uk